



## Ready for Ministry which God is Leading

A sense of belonging to a capital campaign that focused on much more than brick and mortar excited the people of Garden of Grace United Church of Christ in Columbia, SC, to vote unanimously to be a part of the UCC Southeast Conference's "Transforming Lives -- Transforming Churches." We did so after Pentecost Sunday covered-dish luncheon in May.

Garden of Grace realized, too, our own need to be ready for more ministry to which God is leading us. We decided to pursue a joint campaign. Our Bodacious Capital Campaign -- bold, remarkable, outstanding and audacious -- is combined with the conference campaign.

We plan to raise \$100,000 with a challenge goal of \$150,000 during the next five years. A fifth of that will go to Transforming Lives -- Transforming Churches. The rest will go to pay down our mortgage. We do not want our mortgage to hold us back from peace and justice ministries in our community and elsewhere.

In 2009 and 2010, we sent missionaries from our church to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to repair homes. This led us to raise nearly \$30,000 both years in excess of our operating budget.

We want to be able to say our mortgage for our six-year-old celebration center is no obstacle for future ministries.

We launched our joint campaign on our 17th anniversary Sunday, Aug. 22, and our leaders alone pledged more than \$55,000. The first Transforming Churches -- Transforming Lives money will arrive at the end of September, which is also the month that we give birth to our baby, Jubilee! Circle United Church of Christ in northeastern Richland County. Nine months in the planning, this is a second Columbia-area UCC to be lead by our associate pastor -- now Jubilee's pastor -- the Rev. Candace Chellew-Hodge.

The goal of starting new churches is a strong one for us -- and we are grateful that this is part of Transforming Churches -- Transforming Lives. Quite frankly, we would be far less excited about a denominational headquarters building campaign.

*We are honored to be a part of this exciting denomination and conference.*

**Andy Sidden | Pastor  
Garden of Grace United Church of Christ  
1020 Atlas Road | Columbia, SC 29209**



## We Are All Part of God's Family

Being such a small congregation in the rural area of East Alabama, some would wonder how we can pledge toward the *Transforming Churches – Transforming Lives* Campaign. We borrow our worship space from the Southeast Conference (Allen Retreat Center), our pastor is volunteering, and we are several miles from the nearest traffic light. Yet—we belong.

Sandy Creek UCC believes that we are all a part of God's family. *No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey...* The *Transforming Churches – Transforming Lives* Campaign emphasizes our belonging. The three goals of the campaign, *Building Covenant and Connection, Building Leaders and Building Congregations*, will, we believe, assist and encourage us in our feeling like WE belong. We also believe that by our pledging toward the campaign, we may help others feel like THEY belong!

*Now, we are not only 5 for 5, but 5 for 5 plus 1!*

**Wayde Washburn | Pastor**  
**Sandy Creek United Church of Christ**  
6400 County Road 114 | LaFayette, AL 36862



Monday, 08 Nov 2010



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### Celebrations - October



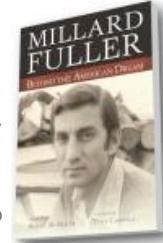
#### Southeast Conference Welcomes Janet Weidler, Pastor of Pilgrim UCC, Birmingham

Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Birmingham has called Janet Weidler as their pastor to succeed Bud Precise who is retiring. Janet comes to us from Hendersonville, NC. Prior to that she had served as an intentional interim minister in Maine, and before that in Penn Northeast Conference. Janet was raised in Birmingham, as is excited by the vision and new possibilities that lie before Pilgrim Congregational UCC which has recently purchased, renovated, and moved into a new facility.

#### Millard Fuller's Autobiography Available

Many know Millard Fuller as the founder of Habitat for Humanity, and later the founder of the Fuller Center for Housing. However, too few know that Millard was raised in a United Church of Christ congregation, the Congregational Christian Church of Lanett, AL. He and his wife Linda went to the Congo as a missionaries under the auspices of what has become Global Mission Partnership of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Millard often credited the United Church of Christ for opening his eyes to the world. The Fuller Center for Housing has just made available the autobiography of Millard's early life, *Millard Fuller, Beyond the American Dream*. Woven through this story are the names of people and places dear to the Southeast Conference. If you wish to order it, it is available from [www.fullercenter.org/store](http://www.fullercenter.org/store), or call 229.924.2900. You may also [link here for flyer](#). Read the story of one of the sons of the Southeast Conference, and learn again how through him, the world has been touched and the lives of thousands changed.



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### Conference News - October



■ [Details for the following Southeast Association Fall Meetings.](#)

#### > [East Alabama-West Georgia Association, UCC](#)

October 30, 2010 | Sandy Creek UCC | Lafayette, AL

*78th Annual Meeting*

#### **East Alabama West Georgia Association of the Southeast Conference Calls its Annual Meeting**

The East Alabama West Georgia Association of the Southeast Conference announces its 2010 Annual Meeting to take place on Saturday, October 30th at the Allen Retreat Center in Lafayette, AL. Registration will begin at 8:30A (Central) and the meeting will adjourn at 12:00noon.

#### > [Alabama-Tennessee Association, UCC](#)

November 5, 2010 | Pilgrim Congregational UCC | Birmingham, AL

[Link here for Fall Gathering Program](#)

#### **Alabama-Tennessee Association Fall Gathering to Be Held November 5-6, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Birmingham**

The Alabama-Tennessee Association fall meeting will be organized around the theme Confronting what God Helps us Embrace, Do and Be, Living Micah 6:8. The program will include an introduction of the disaster relief work of the Conference, a tour of the Civil Right Institute of Birmingham on Friday, an ecclesiastical council to receive Safe Harbor Family Church of Jackson, MS as a congregation of the United Church of Christ, and on Saturday a workshop led by Steve Havey on how to conduct an effective local church capital campaign. Registration will begin at 3:00p on Friday. The ecclesiastical council will be held at 4:15, and there will be a worship service led by the newly called pastor of Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Janet Weidler. The program on Saturday will feature

national, regional and conference leadership in disaster relief. The end of the day Saturday will feature a capital campaign workshop for local church leaders led by Steve Havey. You can contact moderator [Don Clark via email](#) [Don Clark via email](#) for further information, or [link here for the Registration Form](#).

#### > [Georgia-South Carolina Association, UCC](#)

November 12, 2010 | First Congregational UCC | Atlanta, GA

#### **The Georgia-South Carolina Association Fall Meeting Gatherings in Atlanta, November 13th**

The Georgia South Carolina Association is holding its fall meeting in Atlanta, hosted by First Congregational UCC. Beginning at 8:30, the meeting will adjourn at 3:00. There will be an ecclesiastical council to consider Michell Calderon for ordination, a time of sharing around the theme How is God Still Speaking in Your Life, an introduction to the history project of the Southeast conference, and a workshop on how to conduct a local church capital campaign. All are welcomed.



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and registration information will be made available shortly.



**A Time of Thanks** Members of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee are traveling the highways of the Southeast Conference visiting and worshiping with churches that have pledged and committed to the campaign. Welcome fall and a season of Thanksgiving! [Click here to link to full article.](#)

**A New Way to Give** Many of you who registered on-line for the Annual Meeting commented on how easy it was. With that in mind, we encourage you to now consider on-line giving for individuals as well as churches. [Click here to link to full article.](#)

**The 2011 UCC Health Insurance Premium Costs** are in Take time to review the new health insurance costs recently posted for 2011. Click here to [link to the health insurance cost sheets.](#)



**Like when Romeo First Met Juliet ... They Fell in Love at First Sight.** The two groups of participants, who will be venturing on upcoming Thailand immersion trip this January, gathered for pre-trip meeting. Click on photo to left to view pictures from event. [Click here to link to full article.](#)

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Fairfield Glade  
Community Church  
521 Snead Drive |  
Fairfield Glade, TN

The choir is *The Bryan College Chamber Singers*. The Memorial Concert is held every year to honor members of the congregation who have died since the last concert. Midway through the concert the names of the deceased are read and a rose is placed on the communion table in their honor.

The 18 voice group has performed nationwide, in Europe and in the Bahamas. This year's itinerary included a trip to several churches and schools in Florida and Georgia in March with the Bryan Chorale. The group toured Southern California in May of 2008. The Singers were invited in 1999 and again in 2007 to sing at The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Bryan College is a non-denominational, liberal arts Christian college located near the beautiful Cumberland Plateau at Dayton, Tennessee.

After the concert the choir and congregation gather for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

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This year, the United Church of Christ is celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Global Missions. As part of the commemoration, Conference Ministers from throughout the UCC have been invited to travel to various mission sites around the world to see our mission in action. In September 2010, Associate Conference Minister Kathy Clark travelled to Zambia and South Africa where, among others, she met with several partners working in Theological Education by Extension, programs of lay theology begun by Rev. Dick Sales more than 30 years ago. Rev. Sales founded the Theology Among the People (TAP) program based on these models. In March 2011, Conference Minister Tim Downs will travel to China and the Philippines. We are blessed in the Southeast Conference to have many retired missionaries continuing to share their stories and witness among us.

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the first North American

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foreign mission organization, was established by the Congregational Churches of Massachusetts on June 29, 1810 and held its first meeting around a small table in the parlor of Rev. Noah Porter's home in Farmington, CT on September 5, 1810.

***They have gone  
into all areas  
of the world  
witnessing  
the Good News  
through many  
projects in  
evangelism,  
education,  
and healing.  
For what larger  
purpose has God  
led us thus far?***

Within two years of the genesis of the ABCFM, missionaries were dispatched to India, where they established the first mission stations, and soon to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). Other early mission efforts were directed to American Indian populations beginning in 1817. Mission expanded to the Near east (now called the Middle East) and to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) in 1819, then China by 1831, Africa in 1834 and Japan by 1869. This period of expansion of mission came largely during the tenure of Rufus Anderson, who served as Secretary of the Board from 1832 – 1866. Anderson contributed to the theory and practice of foreign mission during that time and is best known for articulating the "three-self formula". Anderson defined the goal of mission as the creation of self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating indigenous churches.\*

*Click on the slide show below and review some wonderful photos of Zambia and South Africa. Enjoy the beauty of the landscape, the history and its people.*

#### Africa 2010 September 2010 Africa 2010

September 2010

The day of the ordination and commissioning of the first missionaries who were to go overseas from the U.S. was fiercely cold; yet the Tabernacle Church in Salem, Massachusetts, was crowded. Visitors came from far and near on February 6th, 1812, to see the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions give the solemn charge to Adoniram Judson, Samuel Newell, Samuel Nott, Jr., Gordon Hall, and Luther Rice. Students from Andover Seminary and Phillips Academy, Andover, walked to and from Salem (better than fifty miles round trip) to attend the service.

The proceedings were followed with almost breathless interest. Here were talented and trained young men, before whom life opened so promisingly, committing themselves to the hazards of a foreign mission! The eyes of the congregation were often turned on the faces of two young women who were present - one Mr. Judson's bride of a day, and the other the promised wife of Newell. Later, the record of her faith during her short life was to become a mighty incentive to the new missionary movement.

That same evening Nott, Hall, and Rice left for Philadelphia supposing they had just time to catch the Harmony before she sailed. The Judsons and Newells remained in Salem awaiting the Caravan, a brigantine which was getting ready to leave for Calcutta. Delays occurred in the sailings of both vessels, trying the spirits of the eager missionaries but bringing relief to the Board's officers who were seeing the treasury filling fast. When it was known that the Board not merely proposed to send out missionaries but that these young people were embarking, gifts flowed in from all quarters. Within three weeks of the decision to send missionaries in faith, more than \$6000 was collected. By the time the Caravan sailed it was possible to furnish the young people with their full outfits and a year's salary in advance. Considering the disturbed conditions to follow because of war, and the difficulty in transporting money, this was indeed fortunate. In a similar way, offerings of friends in the neighborhood of Philadelphia fully equipped those who sailed on the Harmony.

On February 19th, the Caravan sailed out of Salem, carrying the Judsons and Newells; the Harmony, with Mr. and Mrs. Nott, and Hall and Rice, finally got away from the Delaware Cape on the 24th. Thus was launched all those years ago a



"Dr. Dick Sales has had the greatest impact on the church in Zambia than any other individual I know." These words came spontaneously to me in conversation with Pastor Kondolo of Kitwe, Zambia, one of the hosts on my journey through Zambia and South Africa earlier

this year. I heard similar sentiments in every setting that I visited. One of my joys in taking this trip was the opportunity to visit with directors of Theological Education by Extension (TEE), sibling groups to our own Theology Among the People (TAP) program in the Southeast Conference.

Rev. Dr. Dick Sales, retired missionary and active member of the UCC who currently lives in Birmingham, Alabama with his wife Nancy, spent much of his career strengthening the church through theological education for lay and ordained leaders in Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and, upon his "first" retirement, throughout the Southeast Conference. Literally thousands of pastors and lay men and women have been equipped for ministries within the church and the world because of their involvement in programs such as TAP and TEE.

What a blessing it was to visit the land that he loves so much and to meet people who love and honor him for his long lasting ministry. TEE programs begun by Dr. Sales continue to thrive and to grow throughout Southern Africa, as well as here in the SEC.

far, heroic enterprise. Who can conceive of the scope, character and power of service of the nearly 5000 men and women who have followed these eight? They have gone into all areas of the world witnessing the Good News through many projects in evangelism, education, and healing. For what larger purpose has God led us thus far?\*\* Link here to read a list of **Notable Appearances of the ABCFM in U.S. and World History.**



Over the years other organizations became part of the corporation (notably the Evangelical and Reformed mission and service

agencies, women's mission boards, etc.). Today the same corporation exists with a new name which changed in 1961 to United Church Board for World Ministries and again in 1999 to Wider Church Ministries (a covenant ministry of the United Church of Christ). There is much in our history and our current ministry for which we celebrate and give thanks to God. There is also much that we can learn from past mistakes (visible perhaps only in hindsight) and some about which we can confess and seek forgiveness. Join us in commemorating this anniversary throughout 2010 – 2012.

For more information and resources [link here](#).

Read more - **Reflections of a Global Ministries Pilgrim: A Feast for the Soul.**  
**Kathy Clark**, recently returned from a Global Ministries tour of Zambia and South Africa, shares from her journal. [Link here to read the journal entries.](#)

\***David M. Stowe, Year 175: A Brief History of the United Church Board for World Ministries.** (New York: UCBWM, 1948).

\*\* Based upon "The History of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission"

Jan Aerie is the Executive for Mission Education and Interpretation in Wider Church and Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

**Kathy Clark** is Associate Conference Minister for Ministry Formation and Leadership Development of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

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### Lifting Up... October



#### Holding in Prayer Leslie Brogan

We were saddened by the news of the death of Clark Brogan, the father of Leslie Brogan, who until recently served as an associate minister on the staff of Central Congregational UCC. The memorial service was held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at St. John's Lutheran Church in Atlanta.

#### Ginnie Ferrell Remembered on Occasion of Passing of her Mother

Ginnie Ferrell, Associate Pastor at Central Congregational UCC wrote us from Maine, that her mother Barbara Ferrell died peacefully on October 6, 2010. Ginny and her family were with her throughout the week of her hospitalization and hospice. It was a time of loving handholding, tears and celebration. She expressed her gratitude for love and prayers through this time.

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### News From Our Local Churches - October



#### United Church UCC Huntsville Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

On October 2-3 United Church UCC Huntsville gathered with pastors, families and friends from across the 50 years of its history to celebrate being the first church established by the United Church of Christ in the Southeast Conference. Until 1960 all the churches in this region had been congregations built by our



predecessor denominations. United Church drew support from the mission societies of both the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. Present for the celebration were all the living pastors who have served United Church, including Allen Hollis, Jim Norris, and their first pastor, Jim Humphreys. Born in the challenging civil rights era, the early pastors of United Church spoke up for and witnessed to racial equality. They hosted the first integrated choir gathered in Huntsville. At first they worshipped in a farm house, and in the 1990's moved into their newly built sanctuary.

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slideshow!

The program on Saturday night included stories from each decade of the church's history. The sermon on Sunday offered by Pastor Rob Hurst was a challenge to

history. The sermon on Sunday, offered by Elder Tim Down was a challenge to the congregation to face the coming years with vision and hope. A copy of his sermon is available by contacting [Tim Downs](#)[Tim Downs](#). Conference Minister Tim Downs noted in his comments that the United Church has, throughout its history provided leadership in many settings of the United Church of Christ, from the association and conference to the national church.

#### **Praxis United Church of Christ Holds first Worship Service**

Led by their pastor Chris Lyman Waldron, Praxis United Church of Christ, one of the newest churches in the Southeast Conference held its first worship service at St. John's Lutheran Church in Atlanta. The church, a ministry of the Southeast Conference has been in development for almost a year.

Chris and Leah Lyhman-Waldron moved to Atlanta one year ago with the dream of starting a new progressive UCC church called Praxis UCC. According to Chris, "Praxis is a Greek word meaning "practice". It refers to the way that we integrate our spirit and faith into daily life so that our actions rise out of our relationship with God, and our spirit is nurtured by the way we act in the world around us." They hosted their first worship service the first of October and had over 40 people in attendance.



[Click to see slideshow!](#) [Click to see slideshow!](#)

"The Praxis service was in a word '**Amazing**' with a jazz band leading the music, Chris delivering an exceptional message and people given the chance to respond in a *talkback time* during worship," as stated by Rev. Cameron Trimble. The Southeast Conference once again is birthing a new thing.

#### **Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, SC, Celebrates Coming Out Day**

Peace Congregational UCC, led by Susie Smith, celebrated Coming out Day in October, and invites all to view the video of the occasion on Susie Smith's Facebook page.

#### **Nashville UCC Churches Gather for Upper Room Fellowship**

On October 16th the members of the UCC churches in Nashville, Brookmeade Congregational UCC, First UCC, Holy Trinity community UCC, and Howard Congregational UCC gather for their Upper Room Fellowship for a potluck fellowship at Howard Congregational UCC followed by a concert at the country Music Hall of Fame featuring Jason and DeMarco. The Inner Room Fellowship

MUSIC HALL ORGAN RECITAL FEATURING JASON AND DEMARCO. THE UPPER ROOM | CHURCHSHIP has in recent years become a tradition of the UCC church in Nashville to foster fellowship and spiritual renewal.



**The Bryan College Chamber Singers | Memorial Concert**  
The Bryan College Chamber Singers will perform at Fairfield Glade Community

Church in Fairfield Glade, TN. The Memorial Concert is held every year to honor members of the congregation who have died since the last concert. All are Welcome! >> [Link for More Information](#) will perform at Fairfield Glade Community Church in Fairfield Glade, TN. The Memorial Concert is held every year to honor members of the congregation who have died since the last concert. All are Welcome! >> [Link for More Information](#)

**Congratulations to Our Churches Honored for their Generosity to the Neighbors in Need Offering**

We received a notice from the United Church of Christ congratulating us on the generosity of a number of our churches to the annual Neighbors in Need special offering. Those churches were Deer Lodge Congregational UCC, Deer Lodge, TN, Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville, Midway Congregational UCC, Midway GA., Lanett Congregational Christian Church, Lanett AL, Trinity Congregational UCC, Athens, AL, Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN, Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, and Circular Congregational UCC, Charleston. Thank you for remembering those among us with the greatest need!



**Congratulations to First Congregational UCC, Talladega**  
First Congregational UCC in Talladega received word that their historic meeting house has been accepted to be placed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

**United Congregational Christian Church UCC, Columbus Leaves Building to Historic Columbus Foundation**

Following a couple of years of conversation, the United Congregational Christian Church UCC, of Columbus has finalized arrangements to leave its building to the Historic Columbus foundation, which will renovate the facility and locate its offices in it. A part of the Elderite Christian Movement which swept the Chattahoochee Valley, the United Church had a long and faithful history of witness. Minister James Johnson worked with the East Alabama-West Georgia Association and the Southeast Conference to affect this transfer of property. Conference Minister Tim Downs noted "this is a way for the legacy of this congregation to continue serving its community. This is not a day of mourning as much as a day of celebration that a church in its final act, found a way for its generosity to bless the community it has served for years. Minister James Johnson has asked that we put out an appeal for any articles, notes, pictures that people might have so that when the building is reopened by the Historic Foundation there might be a display of the history of the church. Any such materials can be sent to the Conference office.

**Tougaloo College Gathered for their Founders' Day Celebration**  
On Sunday October 17th Conference Minister Tim Downs and Association

Conference Minister Kathy Clark were present to represent the United Church of Christ at Tougaloo College's, a UCC affiliated college, Founders' Day celebration. President Beverly Wade Hogan opened the proceedings by remembering the tradition that shaped the college and its values, the American Missionary Association. She currently serves as the chair of the United Church of Christ Council for Theological and Higher Education. The international renowned Tougaloo College Concert choir provided the music, and the address to the assembly was offered by a Tougaloo graduate, Beverly Cole.



The event highlighted the growing global emphasis of the college as it introduces language classes in Mandarin and Korean to prepare its graduates for participation in the an increasingly globalized world. Following the Founders' Day Celebration in the historic Woodworth Chapel, there was a ground breaking ceremony for the new student commons building.



#### **First Congregational UCC, Atlanta, Hosts Mayor Kasim Reed**

**September 19, 2010**

First Congregational UCC Atlanta, moved to the final step of restoration of their historic

sanctuary, by hosting Mayor Kasim Reed of Atlanta, at their Homecoming Worship Service on September 19th. The theme of the Homecoming was Courage to finish our Journey.

**Thank you, Deer Lodge Congregational UCC for your Support of  
Transforming Churches, Transforming Lives!**

***A Small Church with a Big Heart!***

Moderator Ginny Nixon brought greetings to Deer Lodge Congregational Church, UCC, and a small church that has been serving this rural community on the

Cumberland Plateau since it was a thriving coal-mining center. This multi-generational family church has already paid its pledge of \$5,000 to the Transforming Churches; Transforming Lives Campaign. Moderator Farrell Kennedy and Pastor Rose Hermanot both expressed their support for the mission and ministry of the



Southeast Conference



and their appreciation or both the award and the visit from Moderator Ginny Nixon.

#### Open Table Community

##### **of Faith, Mobile Celebrates:**

##### **All Creatures . . . sing “Alleluia!”**

The hymn attributed to St. Francis of Assisi was sung with unusual gusto during Open Table's Blessing of the Animals service on October 4th, the feast day of St. Francis. Members and friends of Open Table brought cats, dogs, and one vocal hen to celebrate God's love and care of all creation. The only poultry present, Goldie made her presence known on the chorus of our opening hymn. "All creatures of our God and King lift up your voice and with us sing," began the human voices. As if on cue, Goldie joined us on the "Alleluia!" Soon the dogs responded, antiphonally. Who could keep from laughing after that? The pastor did not tell Goldie she was the first chicken the pastor had ever blessed . . . that was not on a



plate.

In our prayer time we thanked God "for the affection and trust of our pets, for the deep mystery of a whale, for the playfulness of a prairie dog, for the beauty of bird song." And we asked forgiveness for "despoiling the habitats of creatures entrusted to our care." As residents of the Gulf Coast, we are painfully aware of the broad impact of human carelessness—ours and others'. But our hearts were gladdened by the animals which



have brought our homes such joy and love.

##### **United Church UCC Cookeville Celebrates**

The United Church of Cookeville celebrated its 8th Annual covenant Renewal Day at worship.

##### **Brookmeade Congregational UCC Welcomes Guest Preacher**

Brookmeade hosted Rev. Steven C. Baines, the Assistant Field Director for Religious Outreach of the Americans United for Separation of Church and State on the 24th both as the preacher at worship and for a forum following worship. The church is also hosting U. C. C. Flood Relief Mission team for the rest of the year.

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## **A Time of Thanks**

This fall season you will see members of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee traveling the highways of the Southeast Conference. They are stopping by and worshipping with the churches who have already made their pledge and commitment to the Transforming Churches-Transforming Lives Campaign. Representing the Conference, they are making a short appreciation presentation and awarding each pledging church with a framed plaque. We have currently 12 churches who have made their pledge with several more promising a commitment by Thanksgiving. Thank you to Bob Watson, Ginnie Nixon, Barbara Everett and Tim Downs for helping me make these first round visits!

Ginnie Nixon had the pleasure of awarding Deer Lodge Congregational Church United Church of Christ a plaque of appreciation on October 17th. Deer Lodge was



one of the very first congregations to make their pledge to the campaign. Here's what Ginnie had to say about her visit there.....

On a lovely fall day, I had the pleasure of visiting our friends at Deer Lodge Congregational Church, UCC, a small church that has been serving this rural community on the Cumberland Plateau since it was a thriving coal-mining center. This multi-generational family church has already paid its pledge of \$5,000 to the Transforming Churches; Transforming Lives Campaign. I was greeted warmly by Moderator Farrell Kennedy and Pastor Rose Hermanot who both expressed their support for the mission and ministry of the Southeast Conference and their appreciation of both the award and my visit. The warm welcome from all the congregation confirmed the message "Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here" which was displayed on the traditional church sign in front of the building and printed in the Sunday bulletin.

**Click here to read** insights from other various pastors and church leaders across the Southeast Conference.

**UCC News****UCC Newsroom**

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

[Unified Governance receives approval of UCC boards, Executive Council](#)

Following a year of deliberation, including discernment and dialog from congregations, Conferences and interest groups, a "Proposal for Unified Governance of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ" was delivered by the Unified Governance (UGov) Working Group and has received approval to proceed from the UCC's Executive Council and the boards of the four Covenanted Ministries.





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## **When Romeo First Meet Juliet**

TAP GTE Thailand Immersion 2011 | Pre-Trip Retreat

Post Photo here + Slide show

It was like when Romeo first met Juliet. They fell in love at first sight. They are the two groups of participants, who will be venturing in the upcoming immersion trip to Thailand in January, 2011. Under the auspices of TAP (Theology Among the People) Global Theological Education (GTE) Program of the Southeast Conference UCC, current students of the Lancaster Theological Seminary (LTS) and TAP participants from different regions of the Southeast Conference (SEC) gathered for the pre-trip retreat at the Welcoming Place, a Mennonite Conference Center in the outskirts of Philadelphia, PA.

The seven LTS seminarians and seven TAP participants were carefully selected to be a part of a very special immersion trip to Thailand, a TAP GTE program which has turned out to be a great success during its first launch in 2008. The three trip facilitators, Prof. Greg Carey of LTS and Rev. Kathy Clark and Rev. Sarah Kim of SEC, worked with the participants over the weekend of Sept. 24-26, 2010, intellectually, spiritually, and communally equipping the group for the trip.

Cultivating unity in diversity and developing a sense of community among strangers are never without challenge. Nevertheless, the two groups conjoined with attitudes of openness and respect for one another and together they celebrated their passion for learning and enthusiasm for the cross-cultural immersion experience that lies ahead. The trip entails a unique opportunity for reflections on inter- and intra-faith dialogues, and conflict transformation and peace-building. It will also entail a time of community

building in an extraordinary context, and a time of self-reflection for personal growth. The trip is to take place on January 6, 2011 over the period of three weeks in Chiang Mai and Bangkok, Thailand.

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## *"A Spirit of Generosity"*

Dear Friends,

How do we model a spirit of generosity in a season in which we feel the scarcity around us? Amidst the news of unemployment, foreclosures, and economic decline it is sometime difficult to "count our blessings, name them one by one." And yet, by so many measures most of us continue to be blessed.

One sign of our spirit of abundance is that I have been touched by the outpouring of support from so many of you to the *Transforming Churches Transforming Lives* Campaign, and I remain confident that we will achieve our goals as we work with our capable follow-up director, Debbie Spearman. We are beginning to visit the congregations who have made commitments to the Campaign to present to them a certificate of recognition and thanks.

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I know in this season of stewardship campaigns many churches are concerned about their 2011 budgets, and I would encourage you to be attentive to the wonderful resources that are available to you through the United Church of Christ, and in particular, the excellent book *Inspiring Generosity*. That resource is available to you through the conference office or through the United Church of Christ.

You may be receiving a contact





from vanco, the company which can help your congregation set up a system for electronic giving. Used by UCC churches across the country, Vanco noted that only

three of our 51 churches are using their services. We have found that churches that do use electronic giving typically see their giving increase by 10%, and their income is not affected by seasonal fluctuations to the same degree as when a church relies on traditional offering plate giving.

I would encourage you to pay attention to the offering of workshops on local church capital campaigns which will be held at the association meetings this fall, on November 6<sup>th</sup> in Birmingham for the Alabama-Tennessee Association and November 13<sup>th</sup> for the Georgia-South Carolina Association. These will be invaluable opportunities for you to understand what these campaigns entail and how to conduct one with excellence.

You are welcomed to contact the conference office for support and consultation concerning stewardship. We have helped churches design and implement campaign in the past and continue to make that support available to those who ask.

Yes, this is a challenging season for giving, and yet, there are many ways to continue to inspire and equip congregations to living in a spirit of abundance even in the midst of difficult times.

Peace,

Tim Downs

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#### SECUCC CONTACTS

- Conference Minister
- TAP Director
- SEC Donations
- Church Development
- Communications Director

#### SECUCC RESOURCES

- Annual Meeting
- Global Theological Education
- Local Church News
- SEC Churches
- Seminars/Webinars

#### FAVORITE LINKS

- Bridge 4 Faith
- The Center for Progressive Renewal
- United Church of Christ
- Mission Insite
- Resource Center

#### EVENTS CALENDAR

November 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

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